

LGBT HEART ANNOUNCES 2006 HEART SCHOLARS

PHILADELPHIA, PA, December 14, 2006 – The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Health, Education and Research Trust (LGBT HEART) today announced the 2006 recipients of the *LGBT HEART Scholarship Fund for the Health Sciences*. The 2006 HEART Scholars are **Ms. Katherine M. Carrick**, Ph.D. candidate in Social Work at the University of Pittsburgh School of Social Work; **Mr. Lore M. Dickey**, Ph.D. candidate in Counseling Psychology at the University of North Dakota College of Education and Human Development; and **Mr. Myo S. Myint**, a medical student at the Medical College of Virginia.

The HEART Scholars class of 2006 represents a wide range of academic and personal talents: Ms. Carrick provides training and education to students of the health sciences on LGBT issues while also successfully lobbying to make the University of Pittsburgh's domestic partner policy less onerous to same-sex couples; Mr. Dickey, a FTM transgender, created a support group for members of the transgender community in North Dakota; and Mr. Myint, an immigrant to the United States at age 14, created an LGBT student advocacy organization at his medical school that has shaped a more LGBT-inclusive curriculum at his medical school as well as on a national level.

"The past year has seen further threats to the health and well-being of the LGBT community," said LGBT HEART President, Manuel Hernandez, MD, MBA. He continued, "These attacks, thinly-veiled under the moniker 'defense of marriage,' place the LGBT community at risk through denied partner visitation in health care facilities and exclusion from medical decision-making."

Dr. Hernandez concluded, "LGBT HEART Scholars are committed to promoting our health and well-being through their education and work in the health profession and we are thrilled to honor their achievements."

Now in its third year, the *LGBT HEART Scholarship Fund for the Health Sciences* is the only scholarship providing support on a national level to LGBT students pursuing graduate-level training in the health professions. It awards scholarships to students who have a demonstrated ability in, and commitment to, affecting change in the LGBT communities through their dedication to working and being educated in the health professions.

The 2006 scholarship program award cycle was open to all LGBT-identified students enrolled in a graduate degree-seeking program in the health professions at an accredited college or university in the United States. Students must have been U.S. citizens, demonstrated satisfactory academic progress and financial need, exhibited leadership traits and performed community service in the LGBT community. Funds for these scholarships are provided through the generosity of LGBT HEART supporters.

For more information about LGBT HEART and the *LGBT HEART Scholarship Fund for the Health Sciences*, please visit www.lgbtheart.org or contact LGBT HEART at info@lgbtheart.org.

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About LGBT HEART

Incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in 2004, LGBT HEART is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation that offers support on a national level to cultivate future clinicians and leaders in LGBT health care. The mission of LGBT HEART is to support the health and well-being of the LGBT community through the support of scholarship and research. LGBT HEART targets its programming to meet the health care needs of the diverse LGBT community in the United States, which currently numbers between 16 and 28 million people and is represented in urban, suburban and rural settings and crosses all socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds.